

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A guide assembly for a sliding roof component, comprising:
a guide rail; and
a guide shoe at least partially received within the guide rail, the guide shoe having a plurality of slide elements that slide along correspondingly positioned slideways on the guide rail, two of the slide elements being located on opposite sides of the guide shoe and a third slide element is vertically offset relative to the two slide elements.
2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the two slide elements are located at approximately the same height near a top of the guide shoe, and the third slide element is located near a bottom of the guide shoe.
3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the third slide element is centrally positioned relative to the two slide elements.
4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the slide elements each have a length that is much greater than a width of the slide elements.
5. The assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the slide elements has a concavely curved shape and a corresponding slideway has a correspondingly convexly curved shape.

6. The assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the slide elements has a convexly curved shape and a corresponding slideway has a correspondingly concavely curved shape.

7. The assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the slide elements has a planar slide surface and the corresponding one of the slideways has a convexly curved shape.

8. The assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the slide elements has a convexly curved shape and a corresponding one of the slideways has a planar slide surface.

9. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the slide elements are integrally molded as part of the guide shoe.

10. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the guide shoe and the slide elements are resilient and the slide elements are pressed resiliently against the corresponding slideways.

11. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the slide elements are arranged in a triangular orientation.

12. The assembly of claim 11, wherein each of the two and third slide elements is at a corner of the triangular configuration.